

MOSS MINUTES DEC'13 Well Country Inn 17.12.13

Present: Karen McDonnell (chair), Dave and Louise Batchelor, Jeff Gunnell, Dave and Elaine Carruthers, Lesley Botten, Michael McGinnes, Stuart Garvie.

Apologies: Alison Bradley, Gary Bolton, Jim Shepherd.

Woodland Trust update: Gary Bolton emailed the following news

5 December gales. Most urgent trees on Moss have been dealt with and path is reopen-rest of tidying up will be done in Gnu Year. I had trees down all over the place. Portmoak Moss revamped leaflet; thank you for all for your comments and photos.

I have taken on-board the suggestions and it looks great- some of you will no doubt be pleased to hear that the red squirrel image has been retained. The text has been amended as required and the photographers credited. It is currently with the printers and will be available early 2014.

WTS Welcome sign Kilmagad; The sign has arrived, along with several others for WTS woodlands in Scotland and they are with the contractor. A strong framework is being assembled to help support each sign and installation for all signs is planned for first two weeks in January.

Treasurer's report: Balance in the bank on 26 Nov 2013 was £2,302.79. Cash and cheques donations from the Xmas Tree Event amounting to nearly £400 received from Louise, with more donations to come from those yet to receive a tree. Cheque paid at the meeting to Stuart for his outlay for high visibility vests (lantern event), and for vacuum flasks and drinks (Xmas tree event).

Xmas tree event Sunday Dec 15th: Agreed it was a success. The money isn't all in yet but several £100s were taken. There will be overheads for the mulled wine, thermoses and juice. Next year it'll be on Sunday Dec 14th and we must get something into the Kinross newsletter. **ACTION:** Louise to ask Gary to organise a Xmas tree pruning session fairly early in the new year.

Burns Supper: Arrangements are pretty well in hand. All speakers booked but no Poozie Nancy yet. **ACTION:** Louise to approach the Browns. **ACTION:** Jeff to send email to Andrew McBride of SNH letting him know about the Supper. Fliers and posters have been printed. **ACTION:** Karen to distribute fliers in Scotlandwell; Lesley and Mike in the Balgeddies; Louise and Dave in Kinnesswood. **ACTION:** Jeff to collect wine from Markinch Wine Gallery (in hand); Karen to speak to Shep about a bar manager (Ryan has agreed); **ACTION:** Dave Carruthers to get bottled water and soft drinks. **ACTION:** Louise and Dave to order beer from Stuart Kale. Some drinks prices will rise, so bottles of wine £10. Beer same as before. **ACTION:** Karen to ask Shep to approach local businesses for raffle prizes. **ACTION:** Jeff to ask Stuart Mackenzie about borrowing the film club projector etc. **ACTION:** Louise to find raffle tickets. **ACTION:** Louise and Dave to take photo of 'the glasses'.

Access: Following a question about whether a corner of the Moss had been sold for pheasant rearing and reports from walkers that they had been told they couldn't walk in certain areas of Grahamstone Farm, such as a field next to the Moss, the matter was taken up by Portmoak Community Council on Tuesday 10th Dec. at the steering group's request. A number of steering group members attended. Chairman, Malcolm Strang Steel, agreed to approach the farmer about the complaints, not only about being told the land was 'private,' but various signs including notices

giving the impression that shooting was going on continuously. There will be an update at January's meeting of PCC.

AOB: Jeff had received an email from Barry Prater of Butterfly Conservation about the prospects of improving habitat for moths and butterflies, special reference Kilmagadwood. Barry said: 'Regarding Bishop Hill, do you have (or could you get) a habitat and botanical survey of the area? This would seem to be necessary both for your future plans and it could also indicate the possible Lepidoptera interest there. It might be a useful plan to arrange a survey for both butterflies and moths there during 2014. Then, combined with botanical data we should have a better basis for developments.' This was welcomed.

Louise reported a hen harrier, a pair of jays, a pair of green woodpeckers. Louise and Dave Carruthers had both seen red squirrels recently. Elaine suggested more wildlife interpretation, perhaps along the lines of the signs on the Heritage Trail. Louise suggested a new or refurbished community woodland sign at the entrance to the Moss. Lesley reported that Simon Scott of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust wanted a meeting of LLLP project leads. **ACTION:** Lesley to invite Simon to an evening meeting.

Date of next meeting: 7.30pm 21st January 2014 Well Country Inn